

CLAIMS

1. A method of extracting organic substances present in coral, which consists in treating the coral with a fluid or a mixture of fluids in the supercritical state without
5 modifying the crystalline structure of said coral, at a temperature of less than 270°C, preferably 260°C or less, and more preferably 250°C or less, and at a pressure which is much higher than the critical pressure of said fluid or mixture of fluids, for example of the order of
10 at least 3 times, and preferably at least 5 times said critical pressure.
2. A method according to claim 1, in which said fluid is selected from ethanol and acetone and the mixture of
15 fluids is selected from an ethanol and carbon dioxide mixture and from an acetone and carbon dioxide mixture, the critical temperature of which is less than 270°C, preferably 260°C or less, and more preferably 250°C or less.
- 20 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which said fluid is ethanol.
4. A method according to claim 3, in which the coral
25 treatment pressure is in the range 300 MPa to 450 MPa, preferably in the range 350 MPa to 400 MPa.
5. A method according to claim 4, in which the coral treatment temperature is in the range 240°C to 260°C,
30 preferably of the order of 250°C and the coral treatment period is in the range 15 min to 240 min, preferably of the order of 1 hour.
6. A method according to claim 2, in which the mixture of
35 fluids is an ethanol and carbon dioxide mixture, and the coral treatment pressure is in the range 30 MPa to 50 MPa, preferably of the order of 40 MPa.

7. A method according to claim 6, in which the coral treatment temperature is of the order of 80°C to 100°C.

5 8. Coral obtained by the method according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

9. A bone substitute fabricated from coral in accordance with claim 8.